

REMARKS

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, this application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Response To Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected the claims as follows

- Claims 34, 36-40, 50 and 52-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,544,044 to Leatherman (Leatherman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,924,074 to Evans (Umen);
- Claims 35, 41-44, 51 and 57-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leatherman in view of Evans in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,601,079 to Wong (Wong);
- Claims 45-49 and 61-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leatherman in view of Evans in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,370 to Gilles (Gilles);

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the invention. It is believed that no new matter has been added. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the applied prior art. More particularly, the claims recite limitations that distinguish over the cited references and accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 are overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

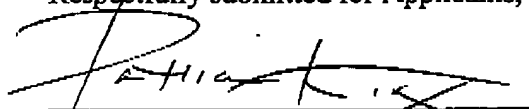
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and accordingly, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 06-0923. Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. 1.27.

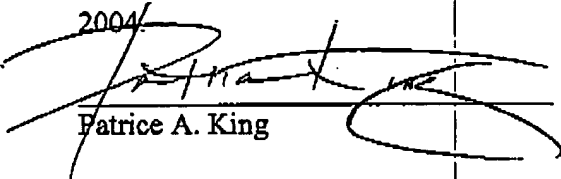
Respectfully submitted for Applicants,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's official facsimile number 703-872-9306 on September 10, 2004.


Patrice A. King

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/855,434
Filing Date : 05/15/2001
First Named Inventor : Uwe Trinks et al.
Attorney Docket No. : 103057-157-NP
Confirmation No. : 2172
Examiner : Fred I Ehichioya
Art Unit : 2172

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application. The requested extension and appropriate non-small-entity fee are as follows:

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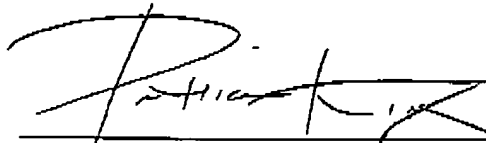
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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One Month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two Months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2)) | \$ _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Three Months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3)) | \$ <u>950</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Four Months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4)) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Five Months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5)) | \$ _____ |

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee amount shown above is reduced by one-half, and the resulting fee is \$475.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicant,



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